

# **EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence City Hall**

**145 Taunton Avenue**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

**November 17, 2010**

## **Open Session**

**Mr. Carcieri called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. School Committee Members present: Luisa Abatecola, Shannon Barbosa, Robert Faria, Steven Santos, Anthony Carcieri. Also present: Dr. Mario F. Cirillo, Superintendent of Schools, Lonnie Barham, Chief Operating Officer, Daniel Kinder, Esq. and Sara Rapport, Esq.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Santos that the Committee convene in executive session to discuss:**

**Teachers' Contract, Teacher Assistants' Contract, Principals' Contract: R.I. Gen. Laws**

**§ 42-46-5(a) (2); Central Administrators' Employment Contracts: R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (1; Litigation: Lopes v. EPSC, EPSC v. EPEA, EPSC v. Rocha & related matters:**

**R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a) (2), seconded by Luisa Abatecola. Roll Call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye.**

**Mr. Carcieri called the Public Session to order at 7:30PM.**

**The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag & a Moment of Silence were observed.**

**Motion made by Mr. Santos to seal the minutes of the executive session, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0.**

**Report Executive Session Votes - None**

**Public Comment I – Chrissy Rossi asked about the necessity of the administrators contracts on the agenda when they have been working for two years without one. Mr. Carcieri explained that the Superintendent's contract was extended two years and that the School Committee wanted to keep his team working with him for the next two years. Ms. Rossi pointed out they have been working at will and the new Committee would be stuck if the money is not in the budget. Mr. Carcieri said that information came up that the future School Committee would dissolve the team. Mrs. Barbosa said, to be fair, the administrators were not given contracts because the teachers' had no contract until recently. Mr. Carcieri said the teachers are now under contract, if next week, the School Department runs into cash shortfall, can they go back to the teachers also. Ms. Rossi objected to two-year at will employees with a School Committee on the way out. Mr. Carcieri explained that the Superintendent and administration play a key role in the operation of**

**the School Department. Ms. Rossi did not see the need for more stuff on the way out.**

**Mr. Carlin presented state proclamations to the School Committee for their service to schools over the past two years.**

### **Reports: Superintendent's Report**

**Dr. Cirillo reported that the Caruolo action initiated by the School Committee against the City of East Providence had been withdrawn.**

**Parent Action Committee Recognition – Dr. Cirillo explained that a bond referendum passed overwhelmingly by the voters in large part due to two ladies who did a yeomen's job to make sure everyone knew about it ; all candidates and organizations endorsed it and he wished to thank everyone behind the scenes for their work informing voters about the project. Lonnie Barham presented a certificate to Missy Andrade and a certificate will be sent to Patti Streit who was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Faria thanked Mrs. Andrade and Mrs. Streit for always working for the school district. Mr. Santos stated that it had been a pleasure working with many people over the past four years and he believes the city is better for it; he hoped that would continue.**

**Personnel Report on Retirements/Resignations/Leaves of Absence - Mrs. Patti Whalen, Human Resources Director, presented the**

**personnel items:**

**PERSONAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Liza Allienello    Secretary – EPHS Nurses Office**

**Effective 11/19/2010 - End of School Year**

**Sandra LeBert    Supervisory Aide – Francis School**

**Effective 2010/2011 School Year**

**RESIGNATIONS**

**Lee Myers    Certified Nursing Assistant                      Teacher – Career &  
Technology                      Center – Effective 10/25/2010**

**Elizabeth                      Morrissey    Speech/Language                      Pathologist  
Meadowcrest School – Effective 11/5/2010**

**Matthew Gaudette    Music Teacher – EPHS  
Effective 11/4/2010**

**Bobby Blakley    Wrestling Coach – MMS**

**Financial Report – Mary King, Finance Director presented the report; summary of revenues and expenditures as of October 31, 2010, the end of the fiscal year; some adjustments will be made in the audit; additional revenues will be added; expenditures not complete and will be adjusted for September and October transportation, not included in the report yet. Mrs. King reported that the budget is on target with no overages expected for 2010.**

**Mayor Joseph Larisa commended the School Committee for doing a tremendous job over the last two years and for taking the taxpayers, the city, and the students into consideration. He listed some of the accomplishments and thanked the School Committee for working with the City Council while understanding the tough times for the City. He felt that a tremendous effort had been made by the School Committee and administration to redirect money to city without suing. As Mayor, he thanked the School Committee and noted that the table had been set by the tough decisions made by this School Committee and hoped that the new School Committee and City Council keep up the progress without a tax increase.**

**Mr. Carcieri wished to note that the present School Committee is leaving office with a balanced budget.**

## **Consent Agenda**

**Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Faria to approve the minutes of the meetings held on September 23, 2010, October 4, 2010, and October 12, 2010, seconded by Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0.**

**Personnel Appointments – Mrs. Patti Whalen, Human Resources Director, presented the personnel items:**

## **APPOINTMENTS**

**Roxie DeBlois     GSA Club Advisor -  
East Providence High School**

**Raunisio Oliveira   Asst. Boys' Soccer Coach – EPHS**

**James Russo     Boys' Basketball Coach - Riverside Middle School**

**Gregory Tidd     Licensed Tradesman A-Electrician –District  
Effective 11/29/2010**

**William Poland     Licensed Tradesman A-Plumber –District  
Effective 11/29/2010**

**Gretchen Houde     Special Education Teacher – EPHS  
Effective 11/18/2010**

**Allison Battis     1/5th Science Teacher – EPHS**

**Marianne Walsh     RTI Specialist – EPHS**

**Crystal White     RTI Specialist – Martin Middle School**

**Nancy Flanagan     RTI Specialist – RMS**

**Candace Andrade     RTI Specialist – Francis**

**Christine Raposa     RTI Specialist – Hennessey**

**Ellen Reinhardt     RTI Specialist – Silver Spring**

**Michelle Chamberlin     RTI Co-Specialist – Kent Heights  
and Pam Jensen**

**Mary Gallagher     RTI Specialist – Oldham**

**Melanie Murray RTI Specialist – Waddington**

**Paula Fillion RTI Specialist – Whiteknact**

**Paula Dionisopoulos RTI Specialist – Orlo**

**Motion: Mr. Faria/Second: Mrs. Barbosa. Vote 5-0.**

#### **Requisitions – Bill Lists**

**Warrant #1030 10/28/10 \$ 309,046.61**

**Warrant #1032 10/28/10 \$ 23,986.51**

**Warrant #1033 10/28/10 \$ 151,943.44**

**Warrant #1036 11/4/10 \$ 10,636.62**

**Warrant #1037 11/5/10 \$ 11,145.00**

**Warrant #1038 11/15/10 \$4,181,566.05**

**Warrant #1039 11/15/10 \$ 510,789.04**

**Warrant #1042 11/15/10 \$ 108,319.24**

**Motion: Mr. Faria/Second: Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0.**

**Awarding of Bid –Finance Director, Mary King, recommended that the bid for Cosmetology Classroom Equipment for the Career and Technical Center be awarded to Syr Beauty Salon Furniture, Inc. in the amount of \$86,018.40. A motion was made by Mr. Faria to approve, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola.**

**Dr. Cirillo explained that the equipment will be paid for by funds from the federal Perkins Grant and that the new cosmetology program will be up and running next fall. Vote 5-0.**

## **Action Items**

**Surplus of Grove Avenue School Building - Mr. Barham reported that a copy of the agreement was sent to the School Committee and a closing on the property should take place by the end of November. A motion was made by Mr. Faria to approve the surplus of the Grove Avenue Building, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa. Vote 5-0.**

**Approval of Deficit Elimination Plan – Mr. Barham reported that the plan devotes 100% of the school department's state funding formula money for the next four years to the deficit elimination and uses 100% of the city meals tax for deficit elimination; a deficit of \$6,191,830 at the close of FY2009 will be paid down over the next four years assuming that the recently passed Public Education Funding Formula will result in the School Department receiving additional state education aid of about \$4.1 M per year at the end of seven years with the amount phased in from FY 2011 to FY2014. The plan is subject to approval by the Office of the Auditor General. A motion was made by Mr. Faria to approve the plan, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0.**

**Approval of Execution of Central Administrators' Employment Contracts - Based on the restructuring plan approved in 2009, the following administrators' contracts were presented for approval:**

**Lonnie Barham, Dr. Caroline Caswell, Edward Daft, Mary King, Rebekah Gendron, Eric Laffey, Raymond Linneman, Kenneth**



**Lopardo, Jonathan Maxwell, Elizabeth Salzillo, Joseph Tavares, Marc Tibault, Patricia Whalen, Kelly Ahrens, Diana Clarkin, Samuel Conklin, Betty DeCrescenzo, Roger Farmer, Anthony Feola, Raymond Francis, Steven Fratiello.**

**Motion to approve by Mr. Santos, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa.**

**Discussion: Dr. Cirillo cited accomplishments by central office personnel. Roll call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, nay; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, nay; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye.**

### **Requests for Home Schooling**

**Dr. Cirillo recommended approval of four requests as presented to the School Committee. Motion by Mr. Faria, seconded by Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0.**

### **Field Trip Requests**

**Dr. Cirillo read the requests and recommended the approval of the following field trips:**

**Martin Middle School – 7th Grade students to Liberty Island and Ellis Island, NY in May 2011**

**Martin Middle School – 8th Grade students to Philadelphia, PA in June 2011**

**Motion to approve by Mrs. Abatecola, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0.**

**Letter of Support to City Council (Naming Press Box) – Dr. Cirillo read a letter received by the School Committee from Stephen Prew, Assistant Principal of Martin Middle School, requesting that the School Committee support a request made to the City Council to name the press box at Pierce Memorial Field after Mr. William Stringfellow, a long time teacher, football coach and athletic director in East Providence. Mr. Prew was present to present the background and reason for the request and to answer any questions. Dr. Cirillo recommended that the School Committee approve the request. Motion by Mr. Santos, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa to approve. Vote 5-0.**

#### **Master Mentor Evaluator**

**Dr. Cirillo provided an overall description of the Race to the Top initiative, which included the total award to Rhode island of \$75million over four years and East Providence receiving about \$1 million of that award. Also explained was the Scope of Work and the four Support Systems. Under one of the support systems, five new Master Mentor Evaluator positions were presented to the School Committee for approval in the areas of Humanities, STEM, PE/Health, the Arts, and Special Populations. There were questions about how the positions would be financed and whether the positions would continue after Race to the Top funding has been exhausted. The Superintendent requested that the School Committee approve the positions with details to be worked out. Motion to approve by Mr. Faria, seconded by Mr. Santos. Following discussion, a roll call vote**

**was taken: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, nay; Mr. Carcieri, aye.**

**Dr. Cirillo thanked the School Committee for their service to the students of East Providence; certificates of appreciation were presented to School Committee.**

**Motion was made by Mr. Faria to adjourn at 8:52PM, seconded by Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant**

**Shannon Barbosa, Clerk of the Committee**